

	<p><b>California Public Utilities Commission</b>  <b><i>Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Program</i></b></p>
	<p><b>East County (ECO) Substation Project</b></p> <p><b>Compliance Status Report: 004</b></p> <p><b>June 7, 2013</b></p>

**SUMMARY**

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is responsible for overseeing implementation of the mitigation measures set forth in the Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (FEIR/EIS) for the East County (ECO) Substation Project. The CPUC has established a third-party monitoring program and adopted a Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Program (MMCRP) to ensure that measures approved in the FEIR/EIS to mitigate or avoid significant impacts are implemented in the field. This MMCRP status report is intended to provide a description of construction activities on the project, a summary of site inspections conducted by the CPUC’s third-party monitors, the compliance status of mitigation measures required by the MMCRP, and anticipated construction activities. This compliance status report covers construction activities from May 13, to May 27, 2013.

**MITIGATION MONITORING, COMPLIANCE, AND REPORTING**

***Site Inspections/Mitigation Monitoring***

A CPUC third-party environmental compliance monitor conducted site observations at the ECO Substation site, along the Southern Access Road, and at the temporary retention basin site. Site observations were completed from May 13 through May 17 and from May 20 through May 24. Areas of active and inactive construction within the project limits were observed to verify implementation of the mitigation measures stipulated in the project’s MMCRP. Daily observations were documented on daily site inspection forms and applicable mitigation measures were reviewed in the field.

***Implementation Actions***

Clearing, Grubbing, and Grading of the Southern Access Road

On May 13, 2013, construction crews began to clear, grub, and grade the Southern Access Road. As described in the FEIR/EIS, the Southern Access Road is a new approximately 2,900-foot-long road that will provide access from Old Highway 80 to the ECO Substation. Activities consisted of clearing and grubbing vegetation, mulching vegetation, and removing vegetation from the project site with the use of

haul trucks. Clearing, grubbing, and grading activities continued throughout this reporting period and are anticipated to continue into the next reporting period (see Photo 1 – Attachment A). In accordance with Mitigation Measure HYD-1, SDG&E installed best management practices (BMPs) including rattle plates and a rock apron at the entrance/exit to the Southern Access Road at Old Highway 80 to minimize the potential for vehicle track-out (see Photo 2 – Attachment A).

Archaeological, Native American, and biological monitors were present during all ground-disturbing activities in accordance with Mitigation Measure BIO-1c and CUL-1d. Each of these aforementioned monitors were observed surveying areas of active construction to minimize the potential for impacts to sensitive resources and in an effort to identify any unknown resources (see Photo 3 – Attachment A).

Exclusionary fencing and signage have also been placed to delineate the approved work limits and to identify environmentally sensitive areas (ESAs) to minimize the potential for impacts to sensitive resources. ESA fencing and project limit stakes were observed to be properly identified and maintained in good condition throughout this reporting period (see Photo 4 – Attachment A).

In accordance with the Nesting Bird Management, Monitoring, and Reporting Plan (Mitigation Measure BIO-7j), a pre-vegetation clearing survey for avian nesting will be conducted no more than 10 days prior to vegetation clearing. If any active nest is located, the nest area will be flagged or otherwise marked for avoidance, and a buffer zone will be established. SDG&E avian biologists approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and the CPUC were observed completing pre construction nesting bird surveys throughout the reporting period. Protective buffers were also observed where active nests have been identified and nesting activities were continually monitored by avian biologists.

In accordance with Mitigation Measure FF-1, all construction crew vehicles were observed to be equipped with the appropriate fire suppression equipment. In addition, SDG&E was observed providing ongoing fire patrols during construction hours and for 1 hour after the end of daily construction activities (see Photo 5 – Attachment A).

### Mobilization of Construction Equipment

SDG&E continued to mobilize construction equipment to the project site using cleared portions of the Southern Access Road. In accordance with Mitigation Measure TRA-1 and the Traffic Control Plan, traffic cones and flaggers were observed along Old Highway 80 to safely transport large equipment including graders and scrapers onto the project site (see Photo 6 – Attachment A). Prior to being brought on-site, all equipment was inspected and verified to be clean and free from dirt and debris to minimize the spread of invasive plant species in accordance with Mitigation Measure BIO-3a and the Noxious Weeds and Invasive Species Control Plan (see Photo 7 – Attachment A). Once transported on-site, secondary containment was placed under staged equipment in accordance with Mitigation Measure HYD-1 and Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) (see Photo 8 – Attachment A).

### Excavation of Temporary Retention Basin

In accordance with the approved Minor Project Refinement Request 001, SDG&E began to excavate the site of a temporary retention basin within the approved boundaries of the ECO Substation permanent footprint. The temporary retention basin is anticipated to measure approximately 250 feet by 150 feet and will be approximately 10 feet deep. The basin is anticipated to have a capacity of approximately two-million gallons and will be fenced to prevent unauthorized personnel from entering the basin. The basin is anticipated to be used for water storage during the site-development phase of the ECO Substation. Excavation of the temporary retention basin is anticipated to be completed during the next reporting period.

### ***Mitigation Measure Tracking***

Mitigation measures applicable to the construction activities were verified in the field and documented in the CPUC's mitigation measure tracking database. A complete list of mitigation measures and applicant proposed measures is included in the FEIR/FEIS for the ECO Substation Project, as adopted by the CPUC on April 19, 2012 (Decision 12-04-022).

### ***Compliance***

Pre-construction mitigation measures have been completed as indicated in CPUC NTP No. 001, No. 002, No. 003, No. 004 and BLM NTP No. 001 (see Attachment B). Applicable mitigation measures were verified during site inspections and were determined to be implemented in accordance with the MMCRP.

## **CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS**

### ***Abatement Activities at the Boulevard Substation Rebuild Site***

All abatement activities at the Boulevard Substation Rebuild Site as authorized by CPUC NTP No. 001 have been completed.

### ***ECO Substation Site Construction***

SDG&E began clearing, grubbing, and grading activities associated with the ECO Substation site on March 11, 2013 and completed site clearing activities on March 29.

### ***Geotechnical Investigations***

All geotechnical investigations authorized by CPUC NTP No. 003, No. 004, and BLM NTP No. 001 to conduct 24 geotechnical borings were completed as of March 14, 2013.

***Southern Access Road***

SDG&E began clearing, grubbing, and grading activities associated with the construction of the Southern Access Road on May 13, 2013. Construction activities associated with the Southern Access Road are anticipated to continue into the next reporting period.

***Temporary Retention Basin***

SDG&E began excavating the temporary retention basin on May 13, 2013. Construction activities associated with the temporary retention basin are anticipated to continue into the next reporting period.

**CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE**

***Abatement Activities at the Boulevard Substation Rebuild Site (CPUC NTP No. 001)*** – SDG&E began abatement activities on December 3, 2012, and abatement activities were completed on December 7, 2012.

***ECO Substation Construction (CPUC NTP No. 002)*** – SDG&E began clearing activities associated with the ECO Substation on March 11, 2013 and completed clearing activities on March 29, 2013.

***Geotechnical Investigations (CPUC NTP No. 003 and No. 004 and BLM NTP No. 001)*** – SDG&E began geotechnical investigations on February 11, 2013, and completed by March 14, 2013.

***Southern Access Road (CPUC NTP No. 002)*** – SDG&E began clearing, grubbing and grading activities associated with the construction of the Southern Access Road on May 13, 2013.

***Temporary Retention Basin (CPUC NTP No. 002 and MPR No. 001)*** – SDG&E began excavating the temporary retention basin on May 13, 2013.

## ATTACHMENT A Photos

---



**Photo 1:** A water truck is observed watering down cleared vegetation along the Southern Access Road to prevent fugitive dust in accordance with Mitigation Measure BIO-4a and the Dust Control Plan.



**Photo 2:** Rattle plates and a rock apron are installed at the entrance/exit to the Southern Access Road at Old Highway 80 to prevent vehicle track-out in accordance with Mitigation Measure AQ-1 and HYD-1.

## ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



**Photo 3:** Archaeological and Native American monitors are observed monitoring the grading activities along the Southern Access Road in accordance with Mitigation Measure CUL-1a.



**Photo 4:** Environmentally sensitive areas (ESAs) have been flagged in accordance with Mitigation Measure CUL-1 and signage delineating the approved project speed limit have been installed in accordance with Mitigation Measure BIO-7b.

## ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



**Photo 5:** In accordance with Mitigation Measure FF-1, fire patrols are onsite during construction hours and for 1 hour after the end of daily construction.

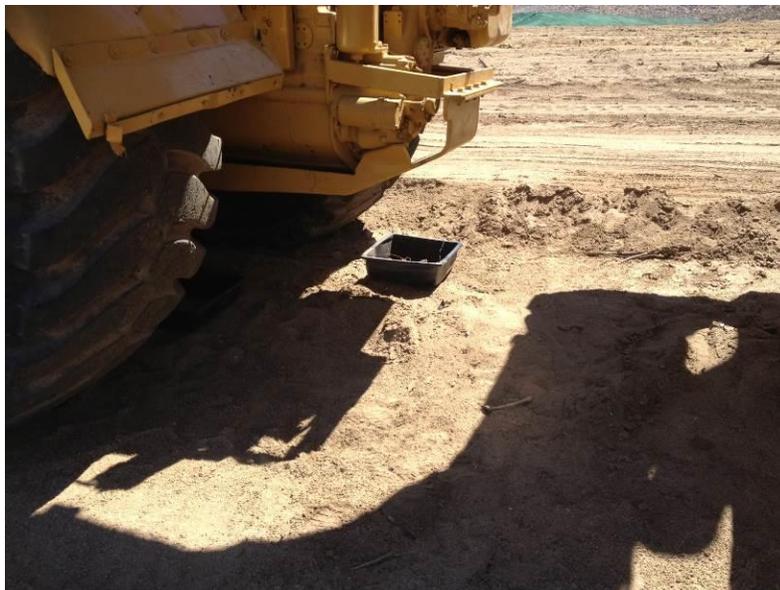


**Photo 6:** Traffic cones and flaggers are observed along Old Highway 80 to help guide equipment onto the project site in accordance with Mitigation Measure TRA-1.

## ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



**Photo 7:** Construction equipment is inspected and verified to be clean and free from dirt and debris prior to being transported on-site to minimize the spread of invasive plant species in accordance with Mitigation Measure BIO-3a.



**Photo 8:** Secondary containment is placed beneath staged construction equipment in accordance with Mitigation Measure HYD-1 and the SWPPP.

## ATTACHMENT B Notices to Proceed

---

NTP No.	Date Issued	Description	Conditions Included (Y/N)
CPUC - 001	November 30, 2012	Abatement activities at the Boulevard Substation rebuild site.	Y
CPUC - 002	February 1, 2013	Construction of a new substation (a 500-kilovolt (kV) yard and a 230/138 kV yard) and rebuilding and paving of an existing access road to provide main access to the substation.	Y
CPUC - 003	February 1, 2013	Twenty-two geotechnical borings to finalize the design of the underground transmission alignments on private lands.	Y
CPUC - 004	March 4, 2013	A single geotechnical boring to finalize the design of the underground transmission alignments on private lands.	Y
CPUC - 005	May 21, 2013	To begin use of the Domingo Lake Construction Yard, Jewel Valley Construction Yard, Carrizo Gorge Construction Yard 1, and Carrizo Gorge Construction Yard 2 in order to begin staging, assembling, and storing equipment and materials.	Y
BLM - 001	February 11, 2013	A single geotechnical boring to finalize the design of the underground transmission alignments on lands administered by the BLM.	Y

## ATTACHMENT C

### Minor Project Refinement Requests

---

Minor Project Refinement Request No.	Submitted	Description	Status	Approval
001	January 25, 2013	The addition of a temporary, polyvinyl chloride (PVC)-lined retention basin with the 500 kV yard to be used for water storage during initial mass grading activities.	Approved	February 7, 2013
002	March 22, 2013	Adjustments to the Domingo Lake and Jewel Valley Construction Yards including:  <u>Domingo Lake Construction Yard</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shift of approximately 550 feet to the northwest</li> </ul> <u>Jewel Valley Construction Yard</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Addition of a new temporary access road</li> <li>• Addition of a temporary 12 kV distribution service line extension (distribution tap)</li> <li>• Additional grading activities at the intersection of Jewel Valley Road and the existing access road located north of the Jewel Valley Construction Yard</li> </ul>	Approved	May 20, 2013
003	March 22, 2013	To use Carrizo Gorge Construction Yard 2 for general construction activities, such as staging and storage of materials in addition to helicopter takeoffs, landings, and refueling as approved in the Project's Final EIR/EIS.	Approved	May 20, 2013
004	May 17, 2013	Adjustments to the Southern Access Road	Pending	Pending